FOUNDED BY QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

# DAWN

Thursday
November 20, 2025
Jumadi-ul-Awwal 28, 1447

KARACHI

Rs 35.00
24 Pages
Vol. LXXIX No. 318
Regd. No. SS-022

www.dawn.com

# IMF highlights corruption risks across state institutions

• Lender's *Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment* proposes 15-point reform plan
• Calls for tighter limits on govt's financial powers
• Demands first public annual report of SIFC, concessions granted • Points to opaque tax system, intrusive regulations, weak independent regulators

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its long-awaited *Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment* (GCDA), has highlighted persistent corruption challenges in Pakistan driven by systemic weaknesses across state institutions and demanded immediate initiation of a 15-point reform agenda to improve transparency, fairness and integrity.

The report, publication of which is a precondition for the IMF executive board's approval of a $1.2 billion disbursement next month, estimates that Pakistan could boost economic growth by about 5 to 6.5 per cent over five years if it implements a package of governance reforms beginning within the next three to six months.

The GCDA seeks an end to special treatment for a few influential public sector entities in direct government contracts and transparency in the affairs and decision-making of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). It also recommends tighter limits on the government's financial powers without greater parliamentary oversight and streamlining of anti-corruption agencies. The government had been delaying the publication of the report since August.

"A unifying theme is the emphasis on increasing transparency and accountability in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. This involves improving access to information and strengthening the capacity of state and non-state stakeholders to participate effectively in governance and economic decision-making," the report said, calling for advancing rule-based governance.

It said Pakistan would obtain substantial economic benefits from improving governance, accountability and integrity along the lines recommended in the GCDA.

"Pakistan could generate between a 5pc to 6.5pc increase in GDP by implementing a package of governance reforms over the course of five years" beginning in three to six months, it said. The key areas include improvements in governance and anti-corruption, business regulation and regulation of foreign trade.

It said both the IMF and the government agreed that confronting and reducing corruption vulnerabilities was necessary for sustainable reform and that anti-corruption efforts are most successful when they combine initiatives to strengthen governance with initiatives to directly confront corruption and enhance integrity.

Indicators showed weak control of corruption over time with negative consequences for public spending effectiveness, revenue collection, and trust in the legal system.

The GCDA revealed systemic governance weaknesses across state functions and noted that the country was exposed to corruption risk generated by weaknesses in budgeting and reporting of fiscal information, and management of public financial and non-financial resources, particularly in capital spending, public procurement and the management

**Continued on Page 5**

TAIR FILSAY (south Lebanon): Flames and smoke erupt from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a home in this Lebanese village. The Israeli military launched strikes on two towns, claiming it was targeting Hezbollah after warning civilians of the impending attacks.—AFP Report on Page 11

# Opposition leader's fate hangs in balance as by-polls declared

• NA Secretariat sticks to its stance that disqualification is 'sub judice' before Peshawar High Court • Omar Ayub's seat among 13 up for grabs on November 23

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Secretariat maintains that the disqualification of Leader of the Opposition Omar Ayub is a sub-judice matter, even as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced by-elections in 13 constituencies, including Mr Ayub's, on Nov 23.

The NA stance came in response to PTI leader Amir Dogar's request, drawing the NA speaker's attention to rules 39 and 9-B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the NA, 2007, which outline the procedure for the submission of names and the declaration of the opposition leader.

As stipulated under Rule 39(2), the speaker announces the date, time, and place for members of the National Assembly to submit their duly signed proposals for the appointment of opposition leader.

According to a response released by the NA Secretariat on Wednesday, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has already made it clear that in line with parliamentary practice, such announcements were made on the floor of the house, allowing all members an equal opportunity to propose a candidate for the position.

He stated as he had not yet made any announcement regarding the schedule for submitting proposals for the opposition leader, no request or proposal could be entertained at this stage.

"The secretariat will proceed only once the requisite announcement is made by the speaker in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business 2007," the speaker said.

Also, the NA secretariat referenced the Oct 29 order of the Supreme Court's

**Continued on Page 5**

# PML-N grouse with CM Bugti 'out in the open'

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The simmering differences between the PML-N and the PPP in Balochistan finally came to the fore, with members of both parties making conflicting claims about the fate of the provincial chief executive.

PML-N Senator Mir Dostain Khan Domki claimed on Wednesday that Mir Sarfraz Bugti would be removed as chief minister in the next few days, and that a new CM would be elected by the PPP — an assertion that was rejected by the party's top leaders in Balochistan.

"The decision to change [the] chief minister has been taken and consultations among the political partner, the PPP, are underway for the selection of new candidate for this slot," Senator Domki told an Urdu-language news agency.

Mr Domki claimed that CM Bugti has disappointed the central leadership of the PPP, PM Shehbaz Sharif, the federal government as well as the establishment, as he had failed to live up to their expectations.

He continued that the security forces were rendering sacrifices for restoring peace and order in the province, while the chief minister was involved in corruption and failing to govern effectively.

"According to my knowledge, the government-sharing formula of two and half years between the PPP and the PML-N would be completed in August next year. It was decided to bring a

**Continued on Page 5**

# Punjab forms 40 JITs to probe cases against TLP

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: With its chief Saad Rizvi still at large, the Punjab government has formed at least 40 joint investigation teams (JITs) to investigate several cases against the banned Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), which were lodged in Lahore and Sheikhupura districts after the outfit's protest last month.

According to notifications from the provincial home department, the government ordered the formation of five JITs under the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 for as many cases registered against the TLP in Sheikhupura district. Of these, four cases had been registered in Muridke tehsil and one in Ferozewala tehsil.

According to Punjab IGP Dr Usman Anwar, 35 JITs have been formed to carry out investigations in cases registered in Lahore. Of these cases, three have been registered in the Nawankot area, three in Shahdara Town, and one in the Ravi Road area.

For the cases registered in Sheikhupura, each JIT will comprise six members, including a superintendent

**Continued on Page 5**

## ON OTHER PAGES

### Heavy rainfall warning for next monsoon

The National Disaster Management Authority has warned that the country is likely to experience 22-26 per cent above-normal rainfall during the 2026 monsoon season, stressing that weather extremes are intensifying. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the authorities concerned to begin early preparations to mitigate the impacts of climate change and prevent any loss of life or property. **Page 3**

# Idea of judges' en masse resignation 'met with silence'

Fly-on-the-wall account of judges' conclave on judiciary's response to 27th Amendment reveals misgivings over parliamentary powers

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: A day after the 27th Amendment eroded its authority, over a dozen judges of the Supreme Court came together in the chief justice's chambers to deliberate a future course of action.

But amid judges' grumbling, a proposal to resign en masse to protest the amendment was met with mere silence.

**FCC to use apex court rules until it frames its own: Page 12**

The Nov 14 full court meeting, chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi, coincided with the elevation of four top court judges to the Federal Constitutional Court, and was convened a day after the resignation of two judges — Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Athar Minallah.

Prior to this, the CJP had also received letters from the two aforementioned judges, as well as Justice Salahuddin Panwhar, requesting a full court meeting for deliberation on the 27th Amendment to discharge their solemn duty to the Constitution.

A source privy to proceedings said that the meeting was held in a tense atmosphere in the CJP's chambers, as superior judges described the development as "a very sad day".

The mood at the meeting became even more sombre when one of the judges questioned whether the Supreme Court was vested with any constitutional authority to restrain parliament from passing laws or constitutional amendments.

As judges debated the ramifications of the amendment, the CJP observed that instead of writing letters to him, the judges should have reached out to him directly, since his doors were always open, a source privy to the meeting revealed.

The full court meeting was attended by at least 13 judges: Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Ayesha A. Malik did not attend the meeting, whereas Justice Musarrat Hilali was indisposed.

Four other judges, namely Aminuddin Khan, Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Aamer Farooq and Ali Baqar Najafi, had

**Continued on Page 5**

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰہِ
The Best Bank in Pakistan for the Fifth Time!
Winner of Best Bank award for
three consecutive years in 2023, 2024 and 2025
and previously in 2018 and 2020
Our commitment to excellence will continue to rise, matched only by our dedication to the cause of Islamic banking, Insha'Allah.
PAKISTAN BANKING AWARDS
BEST BANK 2025
Meezan Bank
The Premier Islamic Bank
Awarded by
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BANKING AND FINANCE, PAKISTAN | DAWN | A.F.FERGUSON&Co.
Follow us on
111-331-331 & 111-331-332 www.meezanbank.com